



Holy Trinity Church, Ratoath

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Opening hours for the Parish Office: 10.00am – 1.00pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday

31st January 2021

Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 10.00pm. Suspended

Holy Hour in the Nursing Home chapel on Monday and Friday evenings at 7.30pm. Suspended.

Please pray for the **repose of the soul** of Maureen Glynn (Kilbride Road) who died during the week. May she rest in peace.

The **Parish Office** will remain closed in these weeks. You may email or phone the office to book Masses, organise certs etc. Messages etc can be left in the letter box at the office.

Fr Gerry and Fr Yohanna will be available at all times for those who wish to see a priest.

White Envelopes lodged on 22nd January €3,075 and **blue envelopes** lodged on 25th January €2,425

We are most grateful to all our parishioners who have left in envelopes and donations to the parish office at this time and we thank you for your continued support and generosity.

We sent our prayers and best wishes to **Bishop Dermot Farrell**, a priest of the Diocese of Meath, who will be installed at **Archbishop of Dublin** on Tuesday next 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Thursday 11th February is **the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes** and is the **World Day of the Sick**.

At Mass **next Sunday (7th February)** we will pray for all the sick and all those who take care of them, remembering especially those who were ill in the past year. We will pray too for all those who died from Covid 19 and those who have been bereaved at this difficult time.

In **Level 5 restrictions** public worship will not take place. The 11.00am Mass on Sundays will be streamed. The link can be found on the parish website www.ratoathparish.ie.

The week morning Masses (Monday to Friday) at 9.45am will also be streamed.

On the weekdays, the church will remain closed until after the morning Mass and will be open at approximately 10.15am for private prayer during the day.

At level 5, baptisms may not take place. Up to 10 mourners are permitted at funerals.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People: ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19.

Professional staff is available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary.

The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024

31 Jan	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	7 Feb	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
11.00am	Catherine Williams Michael, Mary & John Flinter & the deceased members of the Flinter & Leonard families Joe Merriman Martin Kerrigan Mary Cox Stephanie Moran Michael & Patricia Shortt	11.00am	Pauline Vidler Michael Eiffe Peter & Jim Brady Tom, Catherine & Tommy McLoughlin Eugene Gleeson

Monday

Deirdre- Cusack Fairbrother & Special Intention

Wednesday

Michael, Elizabeth & John Mulvany; Christy & Patsy Smith;

Frank & Anna O'Reilly; Frank & Bobo Regan

Thursday

Special Intention

Nigerian Catholic priest killed after abduction

Fr Yohanna is a priest of the diocese of Minna. His friend, from the same diocese, Fr. John Gbakaen was killed after his abduction by armed men. Fr John was parish priest of the Saint Anthony Church in Gulu, in the Diocese of Minna, and was kidnapped on 15th January in the state of Niger.

The parish priest of St. Theresa in Madala, Fr. John Jatau, confirmed that Fr. Gbakaen, together with his brother and another priest, had gone to Makurdi in the state of Benue on 14 January to visit his mother.

On 15th January, the priest and his brother were ambushed by gunmen. The attack took place around 9 p.m. near the village of Tufa. The two brothers were abducted by armed men who then **sought ransom** from the Diocese of Minna. Initially, the kidnappers demanded a sum of thirty million naira, which they later reduced to five million naira.

The priest's body was found near the site of the kidnapping. Father Gbakaen was executed with a machete in such a brutal and horrific manner that identification was hardly possible.

The vehicle that the priest was travelling in was found in a nearby bush.

Fr Yohanna asks all parishioners in Ratoath to pray for Fr John that the Lord will give him everlasting life in the kingdom of God. He also asks you to remember his brother, who has thankfully been released by his abductors.

The Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN) has asked the Federal Government to end the abductions and killing of religious persons by bandits in the country. The Vice Chairman of CAN (Northern region), Rev. Hayab described the Catholic priest's killing as **"shocking and painful,"** stating that insecurity in the North of Nigeria had assumed a much more alarming dimension.

"Today in Northern Nigeria, many people live in fear, and many young people are afraid to become pastors because pastors' lives are in great danger," said Rev. Hayab.

He continued, "When bandits or kidnappers realise that their victim is a priest or pastor, it seems a violent spirit takes over their hearts to demand more ransom and, in some cases, go to the extent of killing the victim. We are simply pleading with the Federal Government and all security agencies to do whatever it will take to bring this evil to a stop," the CAN representative said.

Feast Days of the Week

Monday is the **Feast of St Brigid**. The name Brigid means the "exalted one". She was born around 454 and died in 524. She is known as Mary of the Gael. One significant virtue about Brigid which outshone all others was her generosity. When it came to serving the poor, she said, "If I had the power to give away the whole of Leinster, I would willingly give it to God's poor". The St Brigid's Cross, in legend used by Brigid to explain the Christian faith, remains a popular sign of God's protection.

Tuesday is the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**: Candlemas Day. This feast is a remembrance of the Lord and Mary his mother. An elderly couple, Simeon and Anna meet the child Jesus as he is presented in the temple and Simeon make a prophecy. He calls him a "light to enlighten all peoples"

Wednesday is the **Feast of St Blaise**: Since the 8th century, he has been venerated as patron of those who suffer from disease of the throat. The blessing of St Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick.

Friday is the **Feast of St Agatha** who died a martyr for the faith in the third century.

Saturday is the **Feast of St Paul Miki & Companions**, who were martyred at Nagasaki, Japan in 1597. The six Franciscans, seventeen Franciscan Tertiaries and three Jesuits died suspended on crosses.

Meath Alzheimer Cafés are now being held online. The next Virtual Café is at 11:00 am on Wednesday 3rd February. The guest speaker is Elaine Quinn, who will speak about "The potential of genomic research for health and Alzheimer's disease". All families/carers and loved ones living with Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia are welcome to join us. If you wish to take part please email: meathvirtualcafe@alzheimer.ie and you will receive an invitation to attend.